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GAS UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
WEST FELICIANA PARISH
ST. FRANCISVILLE, LOUISIANA

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1998

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the audited, or reviewed, entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date AUG 2 6 1998

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>P</u>	AGI	E
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT	1	-	2
GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS			
Balance Sheet, April 30, 1998	3	-	4
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Retained Earnings, Year Ended April 30, 1998		5	
Statement of Cash Flows, Year Ended April 30, 1998		6	
Notes to Financial Statements, April 30, 1998	7	_	14
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION			
Schedule of Operating Expenses, Year Ended April 30, 1998		1	5
Schedule of Historical Data, (Unaudited), April 30, 1998	16	-	18
Schedule of Bond Maturity, April 30, 1998		19	9
Schedule of Board of Commissioners' Compensation, Year Ended April 30, 1998		20	0
Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control over Financial Reporting Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>	21	_	22

DYER & VICKNAIR

(CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS)

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Board of Commissioners Gas Utility District No. 1 West Feliciana Parish St. Francisville, Louisiana

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial statements of

GAS UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 WEST FELICIANA PARISH ST. FRANCISVILLE, LOUISIANA

a component unit of West Feliciana Parish Police Jury, St. Francisville, Louisiana, as of and for the year ended April 30, 1998, as listed in the table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of Gas Utility District No. 1, West Feliciana Parish, St. Francisville, Louisiana's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the general purpose financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall general purpose financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Gas Utility District No. 1, West Feliciana Parish, St. Francisville, Louisiana as of April 30, 1998, and the results of its operations and the cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, we have also issued our report dated July 28, 1998, on our consideration of Gas Utility District No. 1, St. Francisville, Louisiana's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants.

DYER & VICKNAIR

(CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS)

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole. The financial information referred to as supplemental information in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements of Gas Utility District No. 1, West Feliciana Parish, St. Francisville, Louisiana. Such information, except for that portion marked "unaudited", on which we express no opinion, has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the general purpose financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

This report is intended for the use of management and the State of Louisiana Legislative Auditor. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

St. Francisville, Louisiana July 28, 1998

Pyer & Vueknain

GAS UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 WEST FELICIANA PARISH BALANCE SHEET APRIL 30, 1998

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 76,551
Receivables	
Customers	128,119
Prepaid insurance	175
Total current assets	204.845
RESTRICTED ASSETS	
Cash	
Revenue account	13,251
Paying agent account	24,174
Customers' security deposit account	6,172
Investments	•
Bond account	252,895
Reserve account	286,726
Renewal and contingency account	83,755
Accrued interest receivable	2,524
Total restricted assets	669,497
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	
Property and equipment	1,763,529
Less: depreciation to date	1,185,655
Dobbi dopiediam do dado	
Net property and equipment	577,874
OTHER ASSETS Unamortized bond expense	5,857
Total assets	1,458,073

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY CURRENT LIABILITIES (payable from current assets) Accounts payable Accrued leave	\$ 111,149 11,524
Total current liabilities	122,673
CURRENT LIABILITIES (payable from restricted assets)	100 000
Revenue bonds payable Interest coupons payable	100,000 1,143
Accrued interest payable	12,319
Customers' security deposits	2,900
Total current liabilities (payable from restricted assets)	116,362
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES Revenue bonds payable	265,000
Total liabilities	504,035
FUND EQUITY Contributed capital	
In aid of construction	345,592
Retained earnings Reserved for revenue bond retirement Unreserved	549,860 <u>58,586</u>
Total retained earnings	608,446
Total fund equity	954,038
Total liabilities and fund equity	1,458,073

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GAS UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 WEST FELICIANA PARISH STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN RETAINED EARNINGS YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1998

OPERATING REVENUES	
Charges for services	\$1,862,437
Line lease	128,500
Total operating revenues	1,990,937
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Gas purchased	1,793,857
Depreciation	56,207
All other	146,058
Total operating expenses	1,996,122
Operating income (loss)	(5,185)
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)	
Interest income	38,069
Miscellaneous income	335
Interest expense	(24,638)
Bad debts	(3,937)
	
Total nonoperating revenues	9,829
NET_INCOME	4,644
RETAINED EARNINGS, beginning of year	603,802
RETAINED EARNINGS, end of year	608,446

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

GAS UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 WEST FELICIANA PARISH STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1998

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Operating income (loss)	\$	(5,185)
Adjustments to reconcile net income to	•	(/
net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation and amortization		57,671
(Increase) decrease in		• • • •
Receivables - customers		(37,032)
Accrued interest receivable		(136)
Prepaid insurance		175
Increase (decrease) in		
Accounts payable		1,229
Interest coupons payable		562
Accrued interest payable		(3,206)
Accrued leave		3,494
Net cash provided by		
operating activities		<u>17,572</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING		
ACTIVITIES		
Miscellaneous income		335_
CACH BLOWS FROM CARTONE AND DREAMED		
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED		
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		(OF 000)
Principal paid on bond maturities		(95,000)
Interest paid on bond maturities		(27,728)
Purchase of property and equipment	<u></u>	(84,677)
Net cash used for capital and		
Net cash used for capital and related financing activities		207 4051
relaced illigioning accivities		207,405)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Interest on investments		38,069
THE TOTAL OF THE THE TOTAL OF T		307003
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH		
AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1	151,429)
	`	
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year		894,953
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year		743,524

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

INTRODUCTION

Gas Utility District No. 1, West Feliciana Parish, St. Francisville, Louisiana was created by the West Feliciana Parish Police Jury under Louisiana Revised Statutes 33:4301-4308. The District is governed by nine commissioners. These nine members are referred to as the Board of Commissioners. The nine commissioners are appointed by the parish governing authority. The District was created to provide natural gas resources to residents within the District.

Note #1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying financial statements of Gas Utility District No. 1, West Feliciana Parish, have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

B. Reporting Entity

As the governing authority of the parish, for reporting purposes, the West Feliciana Parish Police Jury is the financial reporting entity for West Feliciana Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (police jury), (b) organization for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board No. 14 established criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of West Feliciana Parish Police Jury for financial reporting purposes. The basic criterion for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria includes:

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and (a) the ability of the police jury to impose its will on that organization and/or (b) the potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the police jury.

- 2. Organizations for which the Police Jury does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the Police Jury.
- 3. Organizations for which the reporting entity financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature of significance of the relationship.

Because the police jury meets criteria (1) above, Gas Utility District No. 1, West Feliciana Parish, St. Francisville, Louisiana is determined to be a component unit of West Feliciana Parish Police Jury, financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by Gas Utility District No. 1 and do not present information on the Police Jury, the general government services provided by the Police Jury, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

C. Fund Accounting

The District is organized and operated on a fund basis whereby a self-balancing set of accounts (Enterprise Fund) is maintained that comprises its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenses. The operations are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprise, where the intent of the governing body is that the cost (expenses, including depreciation) of providing services on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

D. Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. The enterprise fund is accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus and a determination of net income and capital maintenance. With this measurement focus, all assets and all liabilities associated with the operation of this fund is included on the balance sheet. The enterprise fund uses the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred.

E. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

A budget is not required by state law and, therefore, is not prepared.

F. Cash and Cash Equivalents and Investments

Cash includes amounts in interest-bearing demand deposits. For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the District considers all time deposits (including restricted assets) with a maturity of ninety days or less to be cash equivalents. Under state law, the District may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, money market accounts, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having their principal offices in Louisiana.

Under Louisiana Revised Statute 33:2955, the District may invest in United States bonds, treasury notes or certificates, or any other federally insured investment, or in mutual and trust fund institutions, which are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and which have underlying investments consisting solely of and limited to securities of the United States government or its agencies. For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the District considers all highly liquid investments (including restricted assets) with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Investments are stated at cost which approximate market value. Discounts and premiums on the purchase of investments are amortized over the life of the investment. This amortization is presented as accrued interest receivable.

G. <u>Receivables</u>

The direct charge-off method for bad debts is used; therefore, there is no allowance for doubtful accounts as no material write-offs are expected for receivables at the balance sheet date.

All amounts known to be uncollectible have been charged off.

Substantially all amounts presented are expected to be collected within one year.

H. Prepaid Insurance

Payments made for insurance coverage that will benefit periods beyond April 30, 1998, are recorded as prepaid insurance.

I. Restricted Assets

Certain proceeds of the revenue bonds, as well as certain resources set aside for their repayment, are classified as restricted assets on the balance sheet because their use is limited by applicable bond covenants. The "revenue bond" account is used to segregate resources accumulated for debt service payments over the next twelve months. The "reserve" account is used to report resources set aside to make up potential future deficiencies in the "revenue bond" account. The "renewal and contingency" account is used to report resources set aside to meet unexpected contingencies or to fund asset renewals and replacements.

J. Property and equipment

Property and equipment are stated at historical cost.

Depreciation of property and equipment is charged as an expense against operations. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over an estimated useful life of 5 to 33 years.

K. Compensated Absences

Vested or accumulated vacation leave is recorded as a fund liability and operating expense in the year earned.

In accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Standard No. 43, Accounting for Compensated Absences, no liability is recorded for nonvesting accumulated rights to receive sick pay benefits nor vacation leave.

L. Long-Term Liabilities

Long term liabilities are recognized within the Enterprise Fund.

M. Fund Equity

Contributed capital represents grants or contributions from governmental bodies, developers or customers.

Reserves represent those portions of fund equity not legally segregated for a specified future use.

Note #2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

At April 30, 1998, the carrying amount of deposits is \$91,975. This total is comprised of interest-bearing demand deposits. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties.

At April 30, 1998, the bank balance of the deposits is \$142,771. These deposits are secured from risk by \$120,454 of federal deposit insurance and \$22,317 of pledged securities held by the custodial bank in the name of the fiscal agent bank (GASB Category 3).

Even though the pledged securities are considered uncollaterized (Category 3) under the provisions of GASB Statement 3, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities with ten days of being notified by the district that the fiscal agent has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand.

Note #3: <u>INVESTMENTS</u>

Investments at April 30, 1998, are comprised of a mutual fund which invests in United States government securities. These investments are purchased through the fiscal agent and are fully secured by the United States government, Category 1 in applying the credit risk of GASB Codification Section I50:164.

The investments are stated at cost which approximates market.

Note #4: PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

A summary of property and equipment follows:

Distribution system	\$1,746,703
Vehicles	11,347
Furniture and fixtures	3,025
Equipment	2,454
	1,763,529
Less: depreciation to date	1,185,656
<u>Net</u>	577,874

Depreciation expense charged to operations is \$56,207 for the year.

Note #5: BONDS PAYABLE

Bonds payable are comprised of the following issue:

\$1,600,000 Gas Utility District No. 1 Revenue Bonds dated April 8, 1971, for the purpose of constructing and improving a gas utility system for a portion of West Feliciana Parish, due in annual installments of various amounts through May 1, 2000, with interest ranging from 6% to 6.75%.

The annual requirements to amortize all debt outstanding as of April 30, 1998, including interest payments of \$41,007, are as follows:

Year Ending April 30,	Amount
1999	121,263
2000	119,344
2001	165,400
Total	406,007

A summary of changes in bonds payable follows:

Note #6: FLOW OF FUNDS: RESTRICTION OF USE

Under the terms of the bond indenture on outstanding Gas Utility District Bonds, certain income and revenues, with the exception of pledged lease rentals, (hereinafter referred to as revenue) derived from the operation of the Gas District is dedicated to the retirement of said bonds, and are to be set aside into the following special accounts:

All of the revenue is to be deposited daily in the "Revenue" account.

On the 20th day of each month, there shall be transferred from the "Revenue" account into an "Operation and Maintenance" account that amount required for the payment of the reasonable and necessary current expenses of operating, maintaining and repairing the system.

From the monies remaining in the "Revenue" account after the transfer into the "Operation and Maintenance" account, there shall next be paid by the 20th day of each month into the "Bond" account such sums, which together with other monies then on deposit in the "Bond" account, will be fully sufficient to pay the interest which will become due on the next succeeding interest payment date on the bonds then outstanding, if any, and the principal of all such bonds which will become due on May 1st.

There shall be deposited into the "Reserve" account on the 20th day of each month, one-half of all money remaining in the "Revenue" account after payments required above have been made. Deposits need not be made into the "Reserve" account if the money on hand equals or exceeds \$140,000. Money in the "Reserve" account shall be used solely for the payment of principal and interest on the bonds. The "Reserve" account has a balance of \$286,726 at April 30, 1998. Therefore, deposits are no longer required.

The next available money in the "Revenue" account after transfers as provided above, shall be deposited monthly on the 20th day of each month into the "Renewal and Contingency" account until there is accumulated and maintained in such account the sum of \$140,000. Money in this fund may be used for repairs, replacements, extensions or improvements to the system. Also, monies on deposit in this account may be transferred to the "Bond" account and "Operation and Maintenance" account in the event monies on deposit in these accounts are insufficient to meet the payments for which they were established.

Note #7: RETIREMENT COMMITMENTS

All employees of the Gas District have the opportunity to belong to the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana (System) a multiple employee, cost-sharing, public employee retirement system, controlled and administered by a separate board of trustees. The System is composed of two distinct plans, Plan A and Plan B, with separate assets and benefit provisions.

During the year, no employees belonged to the System.

All employees of the Gas District are members of the Social Security System.

Note #8: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, the Gas District sold \$22,581 of natural gas to West Feliciana Parish Police Jury.

Note #9: COMPENSATED ABSENCES

At April 30, 1998, employees of the District have accumulated and vested \$11,524 of employee leave benefits, which was computed in accordance with GASB Codification C60.

Note #10: LEASES

The Gas District leases to the State of Louisiana a gas transmission line which provides natural gas to the Louisiana State Penitentiary and East Louisiana State Hospital. The lease expires in 1999. The annual revenue from this lease is \$128,500. These lease rentals are pledged for the payment of the revenue bonds.

The Gas District leases office space on a monthly basis under an operating lease.

Note #11: MAJOR CUSTOMERS

The Gas District provides natural gas to the East Louisiana State Hospital and the Louisiana State Penitentiary.

During the year, gas sold to the East Louisiana State Hospital and the Louisiana State Penitentiary was \$671,430 and \$1,016,116, respectively, which represents 36% and 55%, respectively, of the total gas sold.

Note #12: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' COMPENSATION

The Board of Commissioners are paid a per diem of \$50 for attending a board meeting.

The total amount of per diem for the year was \$4,950.

Note #13: UNMETERED GAS

Under the lease agreement between the State of Louisiana and the District, the State agrees to pay to the District each month the pro rate share of unaccounted for gas losses. Likewise, the District agrees to pay to the State each month the pro rata share of unaccounted for gas gain. During the year, unaccounted for gas losses amounted to \$1,760 and is reflected as a charge against revenues.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

GAS UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 WEST FELICIANA PARISH SCHEDULE OF OPERATING EXPENSES YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1998

Gas purchased Salaries Depreciation	\$1,793,857 64,958 56,207
Repairs and maintenance	23,634
Insurance	11,531
Truck operation	4,676
Professional services	10,933
Commissioners' per diem and mileage allowance	7,378
Payroll taxes	4,740
Office supplies and postage	2,161
Utilities	1,635
Rent	1,375
Amortization of bond expense	1,464
Taxes - other	1,630
Computer billing services	1,063
Telephone	770
DOTTIE system	480
All other	7,630
<u>Totals</u>	1,996,122

GAS UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 WEST FELICIANA PARISH SCHEDULE OF HISTORICAL DATA APRIL 30, 1998 (Unaudited)

	1998	YEAR 1997
REVENUES AND EXPENSES Operating revenues Operating expenses	\$ 1,990,937 1,996,122	\$ 2,101,667 2,048,612
Operating income (loss)	(5,185)	53,055
Nonoperating revenues (expenses)	9,829	2,562
Net income	4,644	55,617
GAS PURCHASED	<u>\$ 1,793,857</u>	\$ 1,867,274
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (AT COST) Gas distribution system Vehicles Furniture and fixtures Equipment	\$ 1,746,703 11,347 3,025 2,454	\$ 1,664,269 11,347 2,247 990
Total property and equipment (at cost)	<u>1,763,529</u>	1,678,852
AVERAGE NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS	284	285

ENDED APRIL 1996	30, 1995	1994	1993	1992
\$ 2,390,036 2,340,792	\$1,731,055 1,710,608	\$ 2,227,617 2,167,066	\$ 1,926,558 1,856,128	\$ 1,665,495 1,575,292
49,244	20,447	60,551	70,430	90,203
7,539	11,168	(21,141)	(28,533)	(21,418)
56,783	31,615	39,410	41,897	68,785
\$ 2,163,066	\$1,533,389	\$ 2,002,971	<u>\$ 1,684,840</u>	1,423,937
11,347 3,748	- •	\$ 1,634,442 9,664 3,748 2,516	9,664	9,664 3,748
1,665,771	1,665,771	1,650,370	1,650,370	1,650,370
282	284	<u>278</u>	278	277

GAS UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 WEST FELICIANA PARISH SCHEDULE OF HISTORICAL DATA APRIL 30, 1998 (Unaudited) (Continued)

COST OF GAS PURCHASED

	PER
MONTH	MCF
May, 1997	5.82
June, 1997	5.86
July, 1997	5.11
August, 1997	4.09
September, 1997	5.96
October, 1997	5.23
November, 1997	4.77
December, 1997	4.69
January, 1998	2.96
February, 1998	4.33
March, 1998	4.36
April, 1998	4.02

GAS PURCHASED, BILLED AND LOST

	YEAR ENDED
	APRIL 30, 1998
	MCF
Gas purchased	392,489
Gas billed Residential and commercial	
customers	22,749
Louisiana State Penitentiary	223,560
East Louisiana State Hospital	145,091
Total billed	391,400
Gas lost	1,089

GAS UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 WEST FELICIANA PARISH SCHEDULE OF BOND MATURITY GAS UTILITY DISTRICT REVENUE BONDS APRIL 30, 1998

FISCAL						
YEAR		RI	EQUIREMENTS	S TO RETIRE		BALANCE OF
ENDING	BOND	${f TOTAL}$	INT	EREST	PRINCIPAL	PRINCIPAL
APRIL 30,	<u>NUMBERS</u>	REQUIREMENTS	<u>MAY 1</u>	NOVEMBER 1	<u>MAY 1</u>	OUTSTANDING
1998						365,000
1999	248-267	\$ 121,263	\$ 12,319	\$ 8,944	\$100,000	265,000
2000	268-288	119,344	8,944	5,400	105,000	160,000
2001	289-320	165,400	5,400	•	160,000	- 0 -
	Totals	406,007	26,663	14,344	365,000	

GAS UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 WEST FELICIANA PARISH SCHEDULE OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' COMPENSATION YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1998

Ms. Mr. Mr. Mr.	Kevin Beauchamp Bess Kelley Joseph Kowalczuk Anthony Long Dennis Neal Terry Osterberger		550 550 500 600 550 500
Mr.	Jim Salvant Edward Sharper William Wade Total	4	500 500 600 ,950

DYER & VICKNAIR

(CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS)

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FAX (504) 922-9300

The Board of Commissioners Gas Utility District No. 1 West Feliciana Parish St. Francisville, Louisiana

We have audited the general purpose financial statements of Gas Utility District No. 1, West Feliciana Parish, St. Francisville, Louisiana as of and for the year ended April 30, 1998, and have issued our report thereon dated July 28, 1998. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits as contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

COMPLIANCE

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Gas Utility District No. 1, West Feliciana Parish, St. Francisville, Louisiana's general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests on its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations and contracts, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>.

INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

In planning and performing our audit, we considered Gas Utility District No. 1, West Feliciana Parish, St. Francisville, Louisiana's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation to be material weaknesses.

(504) 635-4204

DYER & VICKNAIR

(CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS)

This report is intended for the information of management and the State of Louisiana Legislative Auditor. However, this report is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.

There were no comments related to compliance or to internal control over financial reporting noted in the audit for the year ended April 30, 1997.

St. Francisville, Louisiana July 28, 1998

Pyer a Vicknain